

The Pipeline

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CHS Secretary Helton is Now On Board; Office Door is Open

By Barbara Hadley Smith, CHS Communications

When he accepted the appointment as secretary for the Cabinet for Health Services, Jimmy D. Helton remarked, "I look on this not as a job, but as a call to duty, and as an opportunity to express my gratitude through service to the citizens of this great Commonwealth."

Secretary Helton recalled that he grew up in Corbin, Kentucky, and is a product of the Kentucky school and university system. He is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University.

"The values and basic education from the days of my youth have been the keystone for the development of character which has served me well throughout my career. I owe a lot to Kentucky," he said.

As head of the Cabinet, Secretary Helton said he would work to promote and maintain those programs that provide for a healthy environment and the prevention of disease for all of our citizens.

He said, "For those who rely on us for their health care needs, I will work to serve them with compassion, maintain their dignity, and ensure their access to high quality health services.

"My door, and my ears, will always be open to the people's elected representatives and to their advocacy groups. As voices of the people, I welcome and encourage their opinions and criticism.

"I hope to develop and maintain a working partnership with Kentucky's community of health care organizations and providers. I know we share a concern for the health and wellbeing of all Kentuckians, and I am sure we can work together to provide the best possible health care for those who depend on us."

Secretary Helton said that one of the first items on his agenda is to become acquainted with employees of the cabinet.

(Continued on Page 1, col. 2)



Security Badges to be Made for Frankfort CHR Staff Oct. 18 - 29

Kentucky State Police will be in the CHR Building complex Oct. 18 - 29 to make employee ID badges for security purposes. They will be in room G26 of the Health Services Building, which is off the center corridor of the ground floor, across from Quick Copy.

All employees working in the CHR and Health Services Buildings will be scheduled to have badges made as follows:
Oct. 18-19: Workforce Development, Finance and cafeteria employees

Oct. 20-22 and Oct. 25: CHS employees

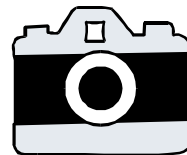
Oct. 26 - 29: CFC and MARS employees

A representative of the Security Committee will be in contact with department heads to appoint a time for each department to go to the Health Services Building to have individual photographs made. The window of opportunity for each department will be limited, so your assistance in getting there during your appointed time will be appreciated.

All **contract employees** will also have photo ID's, and should report to the Health Services Building according to the scheduled time for the departments in which they work.

Temporary employees are not required to have their pictures taken. Special ID's will be issued to all temporary employees.

The list of employees in the CHR complex is complete through Aug. 15, 1999. All new employees hired since Aug. 15, or any transfers from outside the CHR complex since Aug. 15, must be added. Department heads are asked to e-mail the names and social security numbers of these individuals to the following:



CHS staff: Lori Gibson, lori.gibson@mail.state.ky.us

CFC staff: Andrew Bland andrew.bland@mail.state.ky.us

Workforce staff: Brad McGill brad.mcgill@mail.state.ky.us

Helton (Continued from col. 1)

"In the short time I have been here, I am totally impressed by the professionalism and high level of competence of the employees in our Cabinet. We have a difficult job to do, but I take comfort in knowing that I am supported by an outstanding group of people."

CHS Establishes Ombudsman's Office for Medicaid Managed Care

By Gil Lawson, CHS Communications

The Cabinet for Health Services has established an ombudsman's office to serve Medicaid recipients who receive their health care through managed care partnerships.



Brenda L. Johnson of Louisville has been chosen as the first ombudsman and will head the branch. Johnson's office will be attached to the cabinet's Office of Program Support outside of the Department for Medicaid Services.

The new branch will handle questions and complaints from Medicaid recipients, help educate recipients and consumer

organizations regarding managed care, and tell them about their options and rights and responsibilities in the partnerships.

There are currently two regional partnerships operating in the Louisville and Lexington areas. More are planned in the other regions of the state.

"We're glad to have someone who can assist Medicaid recipients with their questions and concerns," said Health Services Secretary Jimmy Helton. "This office will serve an important role to make sure Medicaid recipients are receiving the best possible care."

Johnson most recently served as a project coordinator for the Louisville and Jefferson County Partnership in Cancer Control. From 1995 to 1997 she served as a regional coordinator for the Kentucky Home Place Project in Louisville.

She received her bachelor's degree in counseling personnel in 1983 and her master's degree in public policy and planning from the University of Louisville in 1996.

Pipeline, a weekly newsletter for employees of the Cabinets for Families and Children and Health Services, welcomes reader comments and contributions. Items for *Pipeline* are due by 4:30 p.m. Tuesday; items for intercom announcements are due by 4:30 p.m. Monday. Call (502) 564-6786 or send information to Patricia Boler at Patricia.Boler@mail.state.ky.us

Arthritis Research Grant Awarded to Kentucky

Kentucky is among the 38 states receiving \$4 million in grants in an effort to reduce the occurrence of arthritis - the leading cause of disability for Americans.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced the grants on Sept. 29. Kentucky will receive \$56,220 each of the next two years to better determine the extent of the disease and to educate the public and health professionals about ways to prevent and treat it.

"Many forms of arthritis are preventable," said Paula Alexander, a nurse with the Kentucky Department for Public Health, who will be the project leader for the grant. Arthritis can be caused by obesity, a lack of exercise and occupational or sports-related injuries, she said.

The department will work with the Arthritis Foundation-Kentucky Chapter on the project.

Arthritis and related conditions affected nearly 43 million Americans in 1998. By the year 2020, an estimated 60 million people will have arthritis. Arthritis costs the nation \$65 billion annually and is second only to heart disease as a cause of work disability. Cost-effective interventions to reduce disability are underused, according to the CDC.

About 16.6 percent of Kentucky's population in 1990 - approximately 617,000 - had some form of arthritis, according to CDC statistics. Projections show that by 2020, more than 20 percent of Kentuckians - 874,000 people - will suffer from the disease.

Gregorio Named Lab Director

The Cabinet for Health Services has named Dr. Samuel B. Gregorio the laboratory services director in the Department for Public Health.

Dr. Gregorio has served as acting laboratory director since July 1998, and as manager of the microbiology branch of the Division of Laboratory Services since 1983.

Dr. Gregorio is a graduate of the University of Michigan School of Public Health, where he earned a doctorate in public health. He also holds master's degrees in epidemiology from the University of Hawaii and education from Silliman University in the Philippines.

He came to state government in 1981 as an employee of the Cabinet for Natural Resources and Environmental Protection.

Deferred Comp Expos: Schedule Correction



The Oct. 4 *Pipeline* listed two remaining sessions of the Investment Education Expo '99. There are actually three more dates scheduled for the Expo, which is sponsored by Deferred Comp. There are two sessions each date, one at 9 a.m. and one at 2 p.m.

Frankfort – Oct. 26, Capital Plaza Civic Center, 405 Mero St.

Morehead – Oct. 27, Ramada Inn (formerly Holiday Inn), 1698 Flemingsburg Rd., Oak Room

London – Oct. 28, London community Center, 529 S. Main St., rooms A and B

For more information, call 1-800-542-2667.



October is ...

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

For more information on breast cancer, call the American Cancer Society at 1-800-ACS-2345, or see their Web site at www.cancer.org.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Brain Injury Awareness Month

Cookbooks and Costumes: Raising Funds for KECC

The annual Halloween Costume Contest, a fundraiser for KECC, is scheduled for Oct. 28 in the cafeteria of the CHR Building.

The parade of costumes will begin at 11:30 a.m., and judging will begin at noon. Prizes will be awarded for most original, scariest and funniest costumes. Proceeds of the \$2 entry fee will benefit KECC.

The Cabinet for Families and Children is also selling cookbooks at \$7 each to benefit KECC.

“Buy extras. They will make excellent Christmas gifts for all the cooks in your family,” said Peggy Burch.

To purchase cookbooks, contact Bonnie Cox, Disability Determinations, (502) 564-5028, or Peggy Burch, Office of Technology Services, (502) 564-6478 Ext. 3341.

Notes and Activities



- **Network – Women in State Government** meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m., at the Columbia Steak House, Frankfort. For more information, contact Barbara Pulliam, president, at (502) 564-7863.
- The **American Red Cross** will hold a blood drive **Oct. 14** at the American Legion Post on Versailles Rd. in Frankfort. Donations will be accepted 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent employee **blood drive** in the Health Services Building, **Sept. 27 – 28. Seventy-nine pints were donated.**
- The **Fibromyalgia Support Group** meets the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at Highland Christian Church, Versailles Road, in Frankfort. Anyone who is interested is invited to attend. For more information, call Linda Burke of Health Services at 564-7213.
- Nominations for **CFC Employees of the Month** are due by the 15th of each month. For more information, or to submit a nomination, contact Charlene Nation of the Employee Services Branch, CHR-5, phone 564-7770. She will also accept nominations sent by e-mail.

Infant Resource Center to Open in Frankfort Oct. 20

An Infant Resource Center is scheduled to open Oct. 20 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Frankfort. The center will provide emergency resources – including clothing, formula and bedding – to low-income families with infants under age 24 months.

Assistance will be available on Wednesdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., by appointment only. Call Kathy Hutchins, the center's director, at 223-7630.

Mail Call

Remember to mark off old addresses when you send mail in a messenger mail envelope.

Your mail may not go to the intended recipient if you forget to mark off previous addresses on the messenger envelope.

You're Invited!

Come and meet the new Secretary of the Cabinet for Health Services, Jimmy D. Helton at a reception in the cafeteria Monday October 11 at 3 p.m. All employees of Health Services, Families and Children and Workforce Development Cabinets are welcome.



Helpful Web Sites

Something new will be added to these *Helpful Web Sites* each week.

Remember to "bookmark" the ones you will want to refer to often. If you've found a helpful site you would like to share in this column, e-mail it to <mailto:margaret.harney@mail.state.ky.us>



Y2K

<http://www.senate.gov/~y2k/documents/100dayrpt> – the full report online of the nation's preparation for Y2K, including banks, utilities, schools, hospitals, local government, etc.

<http://www.fema.gov/y2k/bltn00.htm> – a consumer guide to Y2K preparation

Health and Human Services

<http://www.omhrc.gov/welcome.htm> – The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Minority Health Resource Center; links include a newsletter, "Closing the Gap"

<http://www.os.dhhs.gov> – U.S. Department for Health and Human Services

<http://welfareinfo.org> – up-to-date information, policy analysis and technical assistance on welfare reform

<http://www.state.ky.us/agencies/gov/domviol/toc.htm> – Governor's Office of Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Services

<http://www.cswe.org> – the Council on Social Work Education

<http://www.ggw.org/cap/emancipated.html> – the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, including a version in plain English

News

http://cfc-chs.chr.state.ky.us/media_releases/media.htm: media releases from communications staff of CFC and CHS

<http://www.state.ky.us/agencies/gov/rlspage.htm> – news releases from Gov. Patton's communications office

Phone and Resource Directories

<http://www.state.ky.us/directory/dirindex.htm> - an updated phone directory for all state government employees

October is Brain Injury Awareness Month

By Eva Smith Carroll, CHS Communications

The human brain is a soft mass of jelly-like nerve tissue and is quite fragile. Handle with care.

Educating the public on brain-safety issues and generating support for people with brain injuries and their families is the focal point of several activities during Brain Injury Awareness Month in October. These educational activities include:

Brain Injury Association of Kentucky (BIAK) events – River Walk on Oct. 10 in Louisville, the association's Community Services Awards on Oct. 19 in Louisville, participation in the Octoberfest on Oct. 22 in Bowling Green, and Woodland Walk on Oct. 30 in Lexington.

Radio spots sponsored by Cabinet for Health Services' Brain Injury Services Unit to publicize a new state program that pays for short-term, intensive rehabilitative services for adults with brain injuries.

Figures from BIAK indicate 100,000 Kentuckians have brain injuries, with the number growing by 8,000 per year. Nationwide the estimate is 5.3 million people living with brain injury disabilities.

A brain injury can be caused by a punch to the head, automobile accidents, gunshot wounds, "shaken baby syndrome," oxygen deprivation, falls, pedestrian accidents, sports injuries, allergic conditions, exposure to toxic substances, and other acute medical or clinical incidents.

For more information, see the national Brain Injury Association's Web site at <http://www.biausa.org>, or the Brain Injury Association of Kentucky site at <http://www.braincenter.org>.

For information on the state's Acquired Brain Injury Waiver Program, contact the Brain Injury Services Unit, 100 Fair Oaks Lane 4 W-C, Frankfort, KY 40621-0001, (502) 564-3615. To qualify, a person must be between 21 and 65 years old and meet certain medical and income guidelines.

Bulletin Board Reminder...



All items placed on the bulletin boards throughout the building must be dated. Items without a date may be removed. Also, the *Pipeline* poles are reserved for official communications only which must be approved by the Office of Communications.